

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after voting against the Republican budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2012. Hinchey voted for a Democratic alternative that protects Medicare while significantly reducing the deficit. Last night, Hinchey anchored a half hour of floor debate for the Democratic side on the proposal. A video of his floor remarks is linked below.*

"As wealth inequality in America nears highs not seen since the Great Depression, Republicans have proposed a budget that would make matters much worse. Instead of working to reverse this trend, the Republican plan eliminates Medicare, cuts education, cuts infrastructure investments, and cuts research and development into alternative energy.

"Seniors would be forced to pay out of pocket for their own health insurance in the private marketplace using a government coupon that would only cover a fraction of the cost. Working families who have fallen on hard times would go hungry and homeless without access to food and housing assistance. Millions of young people would be forced to forgo college and enter a workforce with fewer quality jobs.

"Even though this budget brutalizes seniors and working Americans, it shamelessly provides huge tax giveaways to big corporations and the very wealthy. This is not the America that Americans want. This budget sells America short, and we can and should do better."